

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-23 are pending. Claims 1-3, 10-13, and 19 were rejected under 35 U. S. C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over Dore (US 5,373,899). Claims 4-9, 14-18, 20, and 21 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 22 and 23 were allowed. Independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended to show that by saying the carrier fluid is capable of breaking in the presence of produced fluid means that the carrier fluid is capable of being broken by produced fluid.

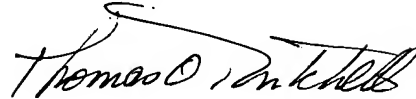
Dore does not teach a carrier fluid capable of being broken by produced fluid. Column 2, lines 2-5, of Dore states that "Mixing these light oil fluids with other fluids may provide the desired density, but sacrifice viscosity, compatibility, or other desired properties of an entraining fluid." The sacrifice of viscosity is by dilution. Compatibility means compatible with the formation; there is no consideration of incompatibility of the entrainment fluid and produced fluid. Breaking of the entraining fluid is not recognized as a useful property; Column 6, line 57, to column 7, line 10, discusses mechanisms by which the gravel is separated from the entraining fluid in Dore; breaking the fluid is not mentioned. Column 5, lines 4-9, states "Fig. 6 shows the assembly during gravel packing using a flow of formation compatible fluids to entrain the gravel. The compatible fluid may be the formation fluid previously produced, or it may be a diesel fuel supplied from the surface or other non-formation damaging fluid."

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections and objections and respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Should any fees be due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Deposit Account No. 04-1579 (56.0749).

Appl. No. 10/644,429
Amdt. Dated June 17, 2004
Reply to Office action of May 24, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas O. Mitchell
Reg. No. 47,800
Agent for Applicants

Date: June 17, 2004
Schlumberger Technology Corporation
110 Schlumberger Drive, MD-1
Sugar Land, Texas 77478
Ph: 281-285-4490
Fax: 281-285-8569